

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 11 and 17 are amended. The amendments introduce no new matter. Claim 7 is canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in that claim.

Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiners Dhingra and Haskins during the March 27, 2008 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of a summary of the substance of the personal interview is contained in the following remarks.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116(b)(1) since the amendments place the application in condition for allowance by amending the independent claims to include indicated-allowable subject matter. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the Final Rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action, on page 11, indicates that claims 7, 9 and 10 recite allowable subject matter. Specifically, the Office Action indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 11 and 17 are amended in accordance with the indication of allowability. As such, claims 1, 11 and 17 are in condition for allowance. Claims 2-6, 8-10 and 12-19 are also in condition for allowance at least because of their dependence on an allowable independent base claim.

The Office Action, in paragraph 2, rejects claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 11 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,839,152 to Fan et al. (hereinafter "Fan") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,222,945 to Chung et al. (hereinafter "Chung") and U.S. Patent

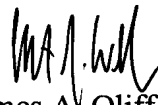
No. 6,493,467 to Okuda et al. (hereinafter "Okuda"); and, in paragraph 3, rejects claims 2-4, 12-14 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fan in view of Chung, Okuda and U.S. Patent No. 6,725,247 to Acharya. The amendment of the indicated allowable subject matter recited in claim 7 into independent claims 1, 11 and 17 obviates these rejections.

During the March 27 personal interview, Applicants' representative presented the above arguments and amendments to the Examiners. The Examiners indicated that claims 1, 11 and 17 would be allowable. The Examiners further indicated that such amendments would be entered.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-6 and 8-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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